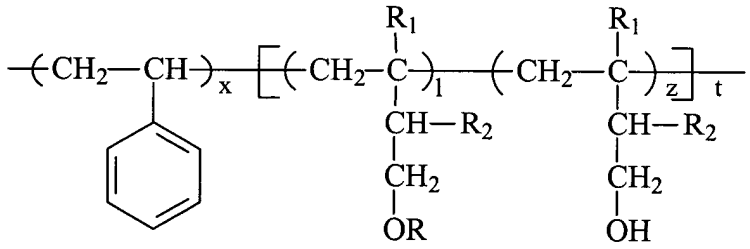
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl or R^1 is methyl and R^2 is hydrogen;

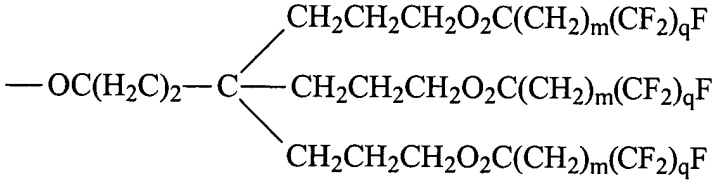
x is about 100 to about 5,000;

z is about 20 to about 1,000;

l is about 20 to about 1,000;

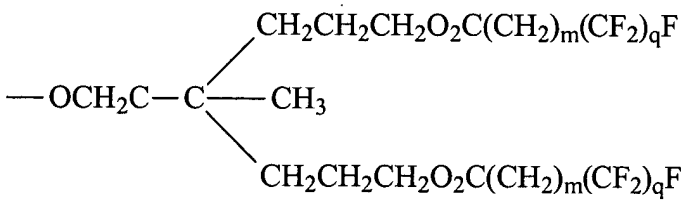
t is about ~~40 to about 2,000~~ 200 to about 1000; and

R is a compound of formula (II) or (III):



(II)

[[



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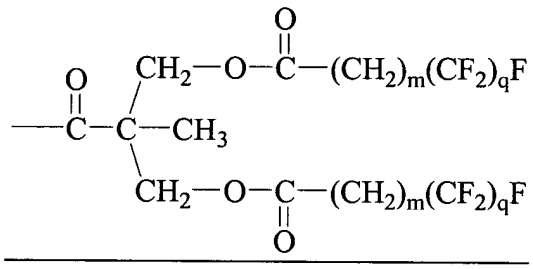


(III)

wherein

m is 0 to about 15; and

q is about 5 to about 15.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein x is about 500 to about 1,000.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein z is about 200 to about 500.

4. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein l is about 200 to about 500.

5. (Canceled) The compound of claim 1 wherein t is about 200 to about 1,000.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein m is about 4 to about 10.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein q is about 6 to about 12.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein x is about 500 to about 1,000; z is about 200 to about 500; l about 200 to about 500; t is about 200 to about 1,000; m is about 4 to about 10; and q is about 6 to about 12.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 1 having an average molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 500,000.

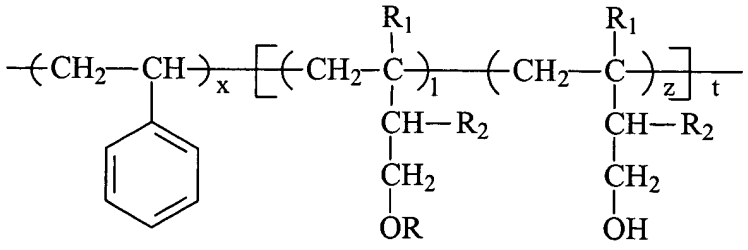
10. (Original) The compound of claim 1 having an average molecular weight of about 75,000 to about 150,000.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 1 that is blended with a thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer.

12. (Original) The compound of claim 11 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer is styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SEBS).

Claims 13-49 (Cancelled).

50. (New) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl or R^1 is methyl and R^2 is hydrogen;

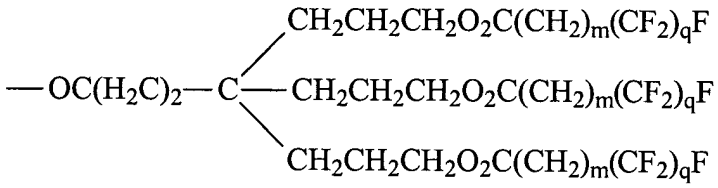
x is about 100 to about 5,000;

z is about 200 to about 500;

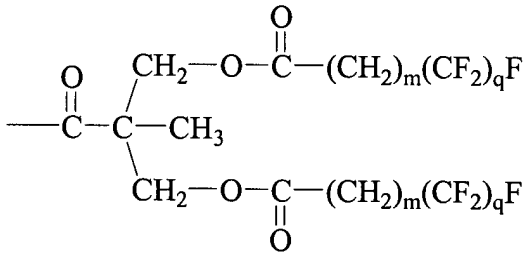
l is about 20 to about 1,000;

t is about 200 to about 1,000; and

R is a compound of formula (II) or (III):



(II)



(III)

wherein

m is 0 to about 15; and

q is about 5 to about 15.

51. (New) The compound of claim 50 wherein x is about 500 to about 1,000.

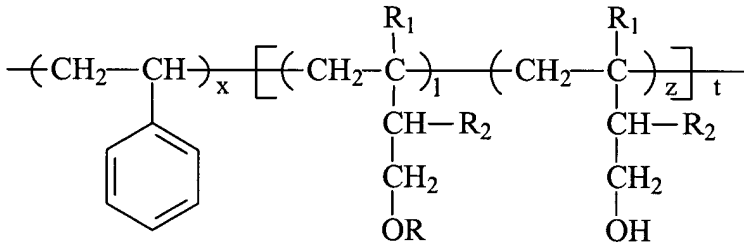
52. (New) The compound of claim 50 wherein m is about 4 to about 10.

53. (New) The compound of claim 50 wherein q is about 6 to about 12.

54. (New) The compound of claim 50 that is blended with a thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer.

55. (New) The compound of claim 54 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer is styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SEBS).

56. (New) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is hydrogen and R^2 is methyl or R^1 is methyl and R^2 is hydrogen;

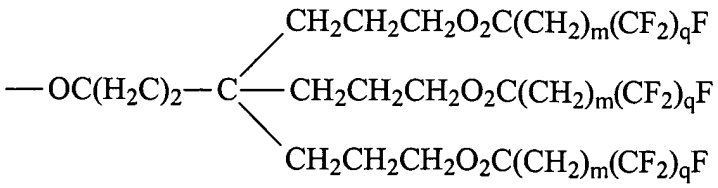
x is about 100 to about 5,000;

z is about 20 to about 1,000;

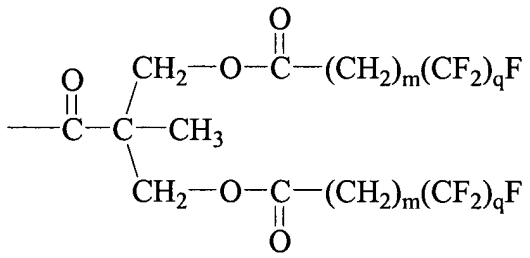
l is about 200 to about 500;

t is about 200 to about 1,000; and

R is a compound of formula (II) or (III):



(II)



(III)

wherein

m is 0 to about 15; and

q is about 5 to about 15.

57. (New) The compound of claim 56 wherein x is about 500 to about 1,000.

58. (New) The compound of claim 56 wherein m is about 4 to about 10.

59. (New) The compound of claim 56 wherein q is about 6 to about 12.

60. (New) The compound of claim 56 that is blended with a thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer.

61. (New) The compound of claim 60 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer block copolymer is styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SEBS).